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Morning Papers .. 29th July, 1944.
Evening Papers .. 29th July, 1944.

RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER, 1944.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for June quarter, 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane 1072, Toowoomba 1085, Rockhampton 1076, Townsville 1119, Bundaberg 1060, Warwick 1062.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City			June Quarter, 1944 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With -		
			Year ended June, 1939	June Quarter, 1943	March Quarter, 1944
Brisbane	..	..	24.22	- 1.02	0.00
Toowoomba	..	..	27.50	- 0.37	- 0.18
Rockhampton	..	..	24.97	- 0.92	0.09
Townsville	..	..	22.70	- 0.44	0.27
Bundaberg	..	..	26.04	- 0.75	0.38
Warwick	..	..	29.20	- 0.19	0.28

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr., 1944	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr., 1944	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr., 1944
Brisbane ..	12.97	- 0.10	71.89	0.07	19.77	0.09
Toowoomba ..	23.46	0.20	62.88	- 0.99	19.02	0.00
Rockhampton ..	12.51	0.40	71.72	- 0.62	21.41	0.51
Townsville ..	10.05	0.48	73.33	0.34	19.26	- 0.08
Bundaberg ..	14.29	0.39	71.87	0.77	18.16	0.34
Warwick ..	16.78	1.02	66.24	- 0.63	27.74	5.26

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for June quarter, 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane 894, Toowoomba 916, Rockhampton 884, Townsville 946, Bundaberg 865, Warwick 862.

From March quarter, ^{1944,} to June quarter, 1944, this index showed the following percentage decreases:- Brisbane 3.35, Toowoomba 3.07, Rockhampton 2.75, Townsville 2.77, Bundaberg 2.48, Warwick 2.05.

The decrease in Brisbane and Toowoomba was mainly due to a drop in the price of bacon and beef. Rents showed an increase of 0.68 per cent. in Warwick but remained stationary in all the other towns.

Compared with June quarter, 1943, the combined Food and Rent Index decreased by the following percentages:- Brisbane 5.10, Toowoomba 2.14, Rockhampton 3.70, Townsville 3.37, Bundaberg 4.10, Warwick 2.27.

The Food and Grocery Index rose in Toowoomba (1.62%) and Warwick (0.51%) but showed the following percentage decreases in the other towns:- Brisbane 3.11, Rockhampton 1.08, Townsville 0.47, Bundaberg 2.27.

The increase in Toowoomba and Warwick was mainly due to a rise in the price of milk and meat in these towns which offset the reduction in tea and potatoes which was responsible for the decrease shown in the other four towns.

Rents remained stationary in 3 towns but showed the following percentage increases in the other three:- Brisbane 0.12, Bundaberg 0.75, Warwick 1.10.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39, the "B" series index increased by the following percentages:- Brisbane 4.93, Toowoomba 11.57, Rockhampton 5.62, Townsville 3.28, Bundaberg 8.26, Warwick 12.24.

Increases were also recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39: the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in June quarter, 1944 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City			All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	..	..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	..	..	1. 0. 3	1. 0. 9	19.11	19. 8
Rockhampton	..	..	1. 0. 1	1. 0.10	17. 9	1. 0. 4
Townsville	..	..	1. 0.11	1. 1. 9	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 5
Bundaberg	..	..	19. 9	1. 1. 4	15. 7	1. 0. 3
Warwick	..	..	19.10	1. 0. 5	17. 1	19.10

Comparison of Commonwealth and State's Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1072	4.17. 0	4.17. 0	-	1076	4.17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1143	5. 3. 5	4.19. 0	4. 5	1139	5. 3. 4	4.19. 0	4. 4
Victoria	1133	5. 2. 6	4.17. 0	5. 6	1129	5. 2. 5	4.16.10	5. 7
South Aust.	1096	4.19. 2	4.14. 0	5. 2	1091	4.19. 0	4.14. 0	5. 0
West. Aust.	1103	4.19.10	4.19. 8	2	1112	5. 0.10	5. 0. 2	8
Tasmania	1100	4.19. 6	4.14. 0	5. 6	1083	4.18. 3	4.12. 0	6. 3

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended June 1944	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				June 1943	Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943	March 1944	June 1944
Brisbane	917	863	1072	1083	1074	1068	1072	1072
Toowoomba	906	851	1083	1089	1078	1083	1087	1085
Rockhampton	903	861	1075	1086	1074	1073	1075	1076
Townsville	1023	912	1116	1124	1114	1113	1116	1119
Bundaberg	(b)	841	1057	1068	1058	1053	1056	1060
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	915	864	1075	1086	1076	1072	1075	1076
Warwick	914	822	1059	1064	1059	1057	1059	1062

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended June 1944	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				June 1943	Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943	March 1944	June 1944
Brisbane	901	852	915	942	925	914	925	894
Toowoomba	833	821	928	936	916	934	945	916
Rockhampton	858	837	898	918	898	900	909	884
Townsville	1047	916	961	979	964	962	973	946
Bundaberg	(b)	799	878	902	883	878	887	865
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	916	941	924	916	927	897
Warwick	841	768	871	882	870	871	880	862

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF	
		March 1944	June 1944			March 1944	June 1944
		d.	d.			d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	3.97	4.07
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.15	11.90
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	12.31	12.55	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.55	12.55	Rump 1 lb.	11.34	16.95	16.90
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.37	Beef - Steak			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	3.00	3.00	Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.85	7.90
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.06	7.03	Beef - Rolled			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.90	7.90
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.23	15.00	15.00	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.40	8.45
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	27.73	27.73	Mutton - chops			
				Loin 1 lb.	7.78	8.45	8.45